

# LANGUAGE ISSUES IN TEACHER TRAINING: A SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVE

**Dr Johan Swanepoel**  
**UNISA**  
**Teacher Education**



# University of South Africa



# Introduction

- **South Africa - multicultural population**
- **Provision for multilingual education**
- **Language can be a barrier**
- **Teacher education - a vitally important role in developing teachers**
- **School-based initial teacher education**



# Problem statement

- **Implications include:**
  - **Attitude towards English**
  - **Role of English**
  - **Level of competence**



# Reasons for using English

- **Gauteng**
- **Durban-Pinetown**
- **Cape Peninsula**
- **Eighty percent are able to speak English**
- **In other regions, only 20% - 40%**
- **Only 9% speaks English as a first language**



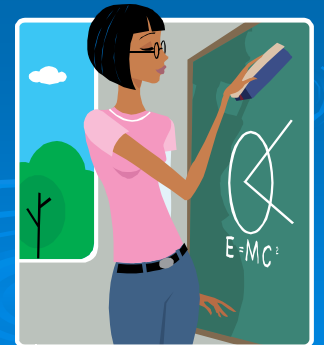
# Map of South Africa



- Durban
- Gauteng
- Cape Town

# Initial teacher training

- **Learnership model of education and training was introduced**
- **School-based teacher education became necessary in South Africa**
- **Teacher education as a mode of delivering learning programmes to combine theoretical knowledge and practical experience**
- **Post-graduate Certificate in Education**
- **Bachelor Education Degree**



# Bridging courses

- **Language and learning skills**
- **Career preparation programme**
- **Internet**
- **ICT boot camp**





# Language and learning skills

## ➤ Outcomes:

- Improve language knowledge
- Expand vocabulary
- Suitable strategies
- Write fluently
- Listen for information
- Converse with others



# Language and learning skills (cont)

## ➤ Outcomes (cont):

- Identify and analyse own needs
- Set priorities and attainable objectives
- Do self-evaluation
- Accept responsibility
- Use of a variety of strategies



# Conclusion

- Different language should be seen as a valuable resource
- Culture and home language of various cultural groups are accepted and respected
- Curriculum should provide for everybody
- Students need additional language assistance
- Tertiary institutions should redress inequalities and create opportunities

